

## Four Days of Money Saving at Bon Marche.

Special holiday goods have almost crowded out staple articles, for we have filled every available space with those things which, by their very appropriateness, suggest Christmas gifts, and by their very cheapness suggest a big money saving.

Everything from latest style cloaks and wraps at half other people's prices, to toothsome Christmas candy or beautiful holiday jewelry at half the real value, tempt you to visit the Bon Marche—"the people's store"—before deciding on your gifts.

Boas and furs make useful gifts, and here they cost but little.

Silver mounted pocketbooks or card cases prove happy gifts, and Bon Marche's variety is tempting.

Handkerchiefs of every style and at every price are pleasing Christmas shoppers at the Bon Marche.

Nothing is wanting to make our holiday stock equal to others save the prices, and they have dwindled down for the last four days into insignificance.

**Bon Marche,**  
314-316 7th St.

## REGARDS MURDER AS A JOKE

Richard Stewart's Conduct After the Police Captured Him.

Locked Up for Attempting to Kill His Father and Mother—The Man May Die.

Richard Stewart, who attempted to murder his mother and step father on Saturday night, as told in the Times yesterday, is locked up at No. 8 police station charged with assault with intent to kill.

The boy's parents lie in a very serious condition at Freedman's Hospital. It is doubtful if the man recovers.

Stewart was captured early Sunday morning by Policemen Hayes, near the Baltimore and Ohio depot. The patrolman saw Stewart walking along New Jersey avenue toward the station and stepping into a doorway waited until he came up.

As the policeman seized him the boy looked up and laughed.

"How, I ain't done nothing," he said; "I'm just looking for a bed in' house."

"Well, I have one for you," said Hayes, "you can come to the station."

Stewart's coat and overcoat were soaked with blood. His collar was stained a deep red and one hand was wrapped in a bandage. He made no pretense of denying his guilt and admitted that he had attempted to kill his parents.

He said he did not know or care if he had succeeded and appeared to treat the whole affair as a joke. Yesterday morning the boy was removed to the Eighth precinct station.

He refused, when questioned, to give any cause for his act beyond saying that he did not get on well with the old people and thought he would finish them.

Policemen Keefe and Roswell, who have been investigating the case, say that there is no doubt that robbery was the motive for the attempted murder.

Mrs. Perry, the owners say, had a small sum of money concealed in a pillow and Stewart knew of it. When he came into the room he told his mother goodby and said that he intended to go to Philadelphia in the morning.

Last night Stewart told the police that after leaving the house he went to Garfield Hospital and had the surgeons dress his hand. He said four stitches were taken in the cut, and that he informed the physicians that the blood on his clothing came from that wound.

**Large Cargo of Cotton.**

New Orleans, La., Dec. 20.—The British steamship American, of the West Indies and Pacific Line, cleared from this port with the largest cotton cargo on record from any port. The cargo comprised 22,570 bales of cotton. In addition she had 4,483 sacks of cotton seed and 54,800 oak staves.

**Oppose the Resolution.**

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 20.—A petition signed by the principal cotton growers in this section was sent to Senators Hays and Butler yesterday asking them to use their influence against the passage of the Cameron resolution.

**Pope Receives Bishop Keane.**

Rome, Dec. 20.—The Pope on noon yesterday gave an audience to Bishop Keane, late rector of the Catholic University at Washington, D. C.

Watch for a town. Congress Heights.

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## WOES OF WHITE SLAVES

Four Bruised and Half-Starved Men Come Here.

### WORKED ON OYSTER BOATS

Horrible Cruelty Practiced Upon the Defenseless Men by Their Captains—Nicky Fortune Was Crazed by His Sufferings and Drowned Himself.

A tale of shocking inhumanity and brutality to sailors was told last night at the Fourth precinct station by four of the victims, whose condition verifies the worst details of their story.

One of the original party is missing and the men believe that he was drowned in the attempt, half crazed by the outrages of his captain, to escape after midnight by plunging naked into the Potomac. The unfortunate man was not seen after his jump overboard as a relief from his misfortunes.

The four men are William Smith, Frank Hoffman, Phil Sheridan, and Otto G. Tripp, William Smith being colored. The two former are systemen of the boat Collector, captured by Dick Mason of Blackneck, the King and Otto Tripp having been sailors on the John Seely, the captain of which is John Dix.

Both boats are in the oyster trade in the lower Potomac. Tripp is from New York, Smith from Pennsylvania, Hoffman from Baltimore and Sheridan from Chicago.

They shipped with their respective captains on September 17 at Baltimore under the regular rules of pay, treatment and provisions. Every single detail of the agreement, the men say, has been shamefully violated.

They left Baltimore in cold weather, and although they had been promised blankets and coal, when they were out on the bay making for the oyster grounds on the Potomac they discovered that they were to have fire wood, but they could get none, an impossibility and an outrage, as they were at sea.

Remonstrance brought them the first intimation of the subsequent outrageous treatment. The captains swore at the men and ran the boat with cuts down below, where they shivered the first night.

**THEIR SUFFERINGS.**

Their next experience was with the food, which they declared last night, was only bread and black molasses, and not too much of that, although they had been promised good, healthy fare.

Hoffman is not a boy. He is already thirty and somewhat of a man, but cold and an unparalleled severity of treatment. He, like the others, is dressed in old clothes which smell of the dirty hold and a miserable accumulation of unsavory surroundings.

"I was told," he said, "that it was hard work, but I never imagined that the hard work would be under such terrible conditions. The first week they let me alone and although the fare was bad and we were cold, we suffered it as best we could. But the next week was a terror."

"I was treated worse than a dog. I was knocked around and knocked down at the least sign of complaint. I was kicked from one end of the deck to the other when I was almost frozen and too weak to resist, if I dared."

"When I failed to work from the terrible treatment and the floggings of the day before the captain took a club and beat me with that unmercifully. He whipped me up and down the deck with a rope, and one very cold night I remember who beat me was a heavy rope, not only over the body, but on my head and across my face."

"This thing went on nearly every day and evening until we were dumped ashore. I don't know how far from Washington, but I took a whole day, from sunrise until dark, to get here. I suppose it was about forty miles from this place."

"We were put out on a little cold morning when the moon was all we had to show us where we were. It was in a swamp and we had to wait until sunrise or about that time, to set out on our journey."

**BEATEN AND BRUISED.**

William Smith, the colored man, was on the same boat with Hoffman. He was a witness and participant in all the outrages described by the white sufferer. Smith is beaten and bruised very badly. His muscles are swollen, his eyes are blood-shot, his feet are numbed, and his story, while the same as that of Hoffman, is not so affecting, because he is or was a strong man before these frightful experiences.

Phil Sheridan was on the "John Seely." He heard the relation of the facts in the Hoffman and Smith cases and said that his treatment was none the less severe and inhuman than theirs. He, too, said, was knocked down, dragged around and beaten with ropes and clubs. He was denied time to clean his clothes.

He and Tripp described their beds as hard, cold and dirty. As stated, whatever was the cause, these men have been treated worse than animals in an offensive pen. It will take them some time to recover from their shameful experiences.

They say that even when they came

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## ALL THE WORLD TALKS OF OLNEY, CONGRESS AND CUBA

Radical Sympathizers May Start Debate in Senate Today.

### COUNSEL FOR COOL HEADS

Moderation Will Be Urged by the Conservative Senators—No Probability That Mr. Cameron's Resolution Will Be Acted on Before the Recess—More Opinions.

The Cuban question and Secretary Olney's statement of the Executive position may precipitate a debate in the Senate today that will set aside the regular business assigned for the two days that body will still be in session before the holiday recess.

It is not probable that the more radical Cuban sympathizers will start the discussion with the presentation of Senator Cameron's report shortly after the morning hour.

Conservative Senators who have studied the precedents are inclined to one opinion that the talk about a serious difficulty between the President and Congress has no sound foundation.

Cool heads will counsel moderation. There is not the remotest probability of Mr. Cameron's resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba being acted upon in the Senate before the holiday recess.

When the debate does begin it is evident that Senators Morgan, Davis, Chandler, Lodge, Cullen and Mills will take up the unfinished business, with the Secretary of State and the discussion may be prolonged until after the 31st of March.

**AFTER THE HOLIDAYS.**

It was agreed in the Committee on Foreign Relations that the report on the Cameron resolutions should be made today and that the matter should not be called up until after the holidays. This agreement will be carried out.

If the program of the Senate made before the Cuban question took such an acute form it is permitted to be carried out the Senate will discuss the Oklahoma free homestead bill, which is the unfinished business.

The beginning of the holiday recess with the adjournment on Tuesday gives but two days for business in the House, and there is small prospect of a quorum. Consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, which is the unfinished business, will resume today and the measure will probably be disposed of, unless the advocates of the library scheme proposed by the joint committee as a substitute for the provisions reported by the committee should require the presence of a quorum, in which case the bill will go over until after the holidays.

Senator Morgan, in speaking yesterday of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's action, said the committee acted solely upon the facts in the President's message, and these fully justified the action of the committee.

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## SPAIN REGARDS THE CUBAN SITUATION AS GRAVE.

The Prime Minister Will Shortly Make a Declaration Concerning the President's Message—Recognition of Belligerency Is Not Regarded as Causa Belli.

### SENOR CASTILLO'S VIEWS

Madrid, Dec. 20.—Senator Canovas del Castillo, the prime minister, has received the official text of President Cleveland's message to the American Congress, and will shortly make a declaration on that part of the document which refers to the Cuban question.

Conferences have been held during the past few days between the most prominent men in political life in Spain with the object of seeking a solution of the problem which confronts the government and which, it is possible, might cause a war with the United States.

It is conceded in all political circles that the situation is grave, but it is thought that the willingness of Spain to grant reforms in the Spanish West Indies should tend to avert any display of aggressiveness on the part of the United States.

One point is settled upon and that is that no reforms shall be put into effect in Cuba until the insurrection shall have been suppressed, for it is held that to offer reforms with the Cubans still in arms would indicate weakness on the part of Spain and would also be derogatory to her honor.

Though the popular indignation caused by the receipt of the news of the action of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the American Senate shows little sign of diminution, there have been no manifestations against the United States or its representatives anywhere in Spain.

**GUARDED THE LEGATION.**

That such manifestations were expected, however, is shown by the fact that police and gendarmes were detailed to guard the American legation here, and precautions were taken elsewhere to protect the various consulates of the United States should they be exposed to any attempt to make an attack upon them.

Orders were sent to the governors of the several provinces to prohibit any anti-American demonstrations, and from dispatches received today from the provinces it is known that the orders were faithfully carried out.

Prominent politicians confirm the statements contained in yesterday's dispatches to the United Associated Presses, that it is the intention of the government, when the opportunity is arrived, to put into effect in Cuba political and economical reforms which, it is said, will be wider in scope than those approved by the Cortes last year.

The death is announced today of Senator Don Manuel Becerra, former minister of the colonies. He was very popular, and it is said of him that he at one time hindered the sale of Cuba to the United States.

The Epoca, the organ of Senator Canovas and the ministerial press, in commenting upon the situation says that Spain, as at the present moment, is in a most difficult position, and that the government is now facing, as long as the insurrection continues, a most difficult task.

Spain has nothing to do to defend her rights if they are attacked.

**NOT A CASUS BELLI.**

A recognition of belligerency is not a casus belli unless such recognition is granted by an interested nation. Formerly Spain recognized the belligerency of the Southern States of America, despite the protest of the Federal government, which did not regard the attitude of European governments in this matter as a casus belli.

If the act indicated by the Cameron resolution shall be consummated Spain will protest, thereby greatly influencing the relations between the United States and Spain, but Spaniards must not forget the attitude of the powers, which after President Cleveland's declaration against the Anglo-Venezuelan dispute, abstained from any intervention. Spain ought to keep account of all these precedents.

Prime Minister Canovas holds that under the framing of Senator Cameron's resolution there will be no armed intervention on the part of the United States in Cuban territory. Though the partisans of the proposal may obtain the necessary votes to override the veto which he believes President Cleveland will interpose, and so make the resolution an obligatory act of Congress, it would only affect a recognition of the independence of Cuba and lead to an offer of its good offices by the United States to terminate the war.

**SPAIN'S COURSE.**

With whatever officiousness the United States may interpose, Spain will retain the right to accept or reject the offer of the American good offices. If the United States recognizes the independence of Cuba she will then have to recognize the laws of neutrality. If she recognizes the belligerency of the Cubans Spain will have the right to stop and visit American vessels at sea.

Senator Canovas does not think that the Cameron resolution need cause serious perturbation. It will only make the relations between Spain and the United States more strained, but need not cause a rupture.

He will never consent to foreign interference in what is a question of Spain's domestic politics. Spain will regulate her acts so that nobody will be able to say that she made war upon another power, yet she will always repel aggression.

The tone of the newspapers generally is more moderate today than it was yesterday. They contain little to excite the populace.

**DIED FROM HEART DISEASE.**

R. N. Quackenbush of This City Expired in Newark Boarding House.

New York, Dec. 20.—R. N. Quackenbush, thirty-five years old, of Washington, D. C., last night was found dead in his room in Mrs. Jane J. Quackenbush's boarding house, No. 275 Market street, Newark, N. J.

County Physician Washington held an autopsy today and decided that Quackenbush died from heart disease.

The name of R. N. Quackenbush does not appear in the directory of this city. The postoffice authorities reported last night that his mail had been sent to 1007 Thirtieth street northwest. Investigation showed the house bearing the above number to be vacant.

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